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WESTWOOD
'WE HAVE TO HAVE DATA, AND IT HAS TO BE PUBLIC'
DAY 4 OF OUR SPECIAL REPORT ON CAMPUS SEX ASSAULT
metroNEWS

Tom Dewe hangs out with Brittany Gaudet and her dog, Mr. Buzz, at Cathcart Park. ADAM KVETON/FOR METRO

FENCE-ING DUEL

Parents and dog owners are at odds over who should be fenced in at Lowertown's Cathcart Park metroNEWS

More than 1 in 10 drivers leave the scene

2015 DATA

13% of collisions with cyclists, pedestrians were hit-and-runs

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Thirteen per cent of reported cycling and pedestrian collisions in 2015 were hit-and-runs, Ottawa police data shows.

According to raw collision data obtained by Metro, 55 people failed to remain at the scene last year after a cyclist or pedestrian was hit by a car.

"It's unfortunate that more than one in 10 people would leave the scene," said Gareth Davies, president of advocacy group Citizens for Safe Cycling.

Of course, those are just reported collisions. Cyclist Bob McDougall was victim of a hit-and-run on a roundabout on Bayview Road this spring, but he didn't call police because he couldn't get the car's licence plate.

"She sideswiped me and it was all I could do to not get swept under her car," said McDougall, who said hit-and-runs are just one problem. "There's something every day."

The data shows that in almost all cases last year, hit-and-runs caused at least some level of injury.

And in one case, a cyclist was left for dead.

That was 39-year-old Andy Nevin, who was hit by a pick-up truck early on June 28, 2015 on Leitrim Road. His death was the only cycling fatality in 2015.

Reported collisions involving bikes and pedestrians generally dropped 21 and 40 per cent respectively in 2015 compared to the previous year.

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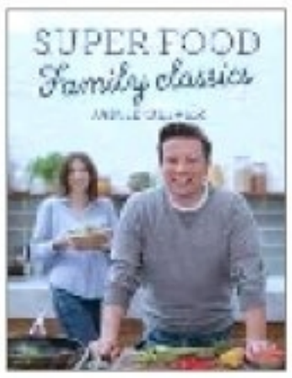

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Judicial Council wants more disciplinary options for judges. **Canada**

Suya Spot shuts its doors

NIGHTLIFE

Restaurant was under scrutiny since shooting in September

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

River ward Coun. Riley Brockington said Wednesday that The Suya Spot — a Carlington restaurant that has been under scrutiny since a September shooting left one man dead — has been closed down.

"The landlord confirmed with me today that The Suya Spot is now closed," said Brockington.

Brockington said he's met with the plaza's landlord multiple times to discuss resident complaints that include fights, loud partying and public drunkenness. On Sept. 25, 26-year-old Abdi "Ajax" Jama was gunned down in the adjacent parking lot.

In an incident last year, police seized 19 bottles of illegal alcohol after the restaurant had its application for a liquor licence rejected in 2014.

"I don't cheer businesses closing in the ward or in the city, but that area has been an epicentre for a number of issues over a number of years," said Brockington. "People have had enough."

Trevor Nagler, who has lived directly across from The Suya Spot for eight months, said the restaurant was known for being particularly rowdy in the early morning on Sundays and Saturdays. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

WXYZ Property Management, the owner of the plaza that includes The Suya Spot, would not respond to repeated phone calls for details about the closure.

Cameron Ketchum, president of the Carlington Community Association, said the neighbourhood is hoping the landlord will consider bringing in a quieter business. He said the area is lacking a coffee shop or grocery store.

"We also really don't want to see businesses fail in our neighbourhood. We need more of them, it's really unfortunate there wasn't an opportunity to find a solution," he said.

"It's kind of a mixed reaction. Clearly this location has been linked consistently to incidents of violence, and it's unfortunate that the last resort had to be the one taken," he said.

The manager of The Suya Spot, Reynolds Okoh, has said that he's upset the restaurant has been linked to gang violence, and notes that there are other businesses in the same plaza.

"I guess this is the (price) we pay to run a black business and trying to survive. We know with time the whole truth will be out and everyone that has accused us in one way or the other will be put to shame," he wrote on Facebook last week.

> **"At the end of the day this business was a sore spot for the residents.**
> Anthony Skinner

Okoh added that he has "many" of videos showing police entering the restaurant and harassing customers outside. Okoh did not respond to Metro's request for comment or to confirm the restaurant had been closed.

Acting Staff Sgt. Anthony Skinner said the business wasn't unfairly targeted by Ottawa police, and that the department received over a hundred complaints.

"Ultimately, we're pleased because our community is pleased," he said.

"At the end of the day, the complaints from the community don't lie. It's residents who are being disturbed with fights and sirens and things like that. It's a difficult thing anytime anyone loses their business, but at the end of the day this business was a sore spot for the residents."

FEDERAL SYSTEMS

Payroll backlog drops: Feds

The head of the federal department overseeing the effort to fix the Phoenix civil-servant payroll system says the government isn't contemplating legal action, even though at least one other country has gone down that path.

Tech giant IBM created the Phoenix pay system, basing it on the PeopleSoft program that is used worldwide and tailoring it to the needs of the federal civil service.

The state government in Queensland, Australia, unsuccessfully tried to sue IBM for a similar pay-system problem in a case that wrapped up earlier this year. That case was getting started just as the Canadian government went to tender for its new pay system.

Now, the federal Liberal government has budgeted an extra $50 million to handle issues related to Phoenix, including millions to IBM to make system fixes.

"We have no reason to sue IBM right now. IBM is respecting its contract. They have been good partners," said Marie Lemay, deputy minister at Public Services and Procurement Canada.

Lemay said officials have cleared more than 38,228 of the incorrect pay cases that were in the system as of July 1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Walking in a minister's shoes

POLITICS

Girl shadows McKenna on 'craziest, busiest' day

Adam Kveton
For Metro | Ottawa

One of the first things Raisa Masud will tell you about being a federal cabinet minister is that it's hectic.

The second thing she'll tell you, and it might sound funny considering we are talking about politics, is that co-operation is what makes getting through the day possible. That means fostering co-operation with other parties as well as having a team that can get you from one meeting to the next, she said.

And 17-year-old Masud knows what she's talking about. She spent a day this week shadowing Ottawa Centre MP and Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna during what McKenna called one of her "craziest, busiest" days yet.

Raisa Masud, 17, got a peek into what it's like occupying the seat of a leader this week when she shadowed **Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna** for a particularly busy day at Parliament. ADAM KVETON/FOR METRO

The opportunity was part of the first ever #GirlsBelongHere initiative, which challenged people in a position of power to "give up their decision-making seats" to a young woman for a day to show that they belong in them.

The initiative continues up to the International Day of the Girl on Oct. 11.

Masud became a part of the initiative after volunteering for a year as a public speaker on gender equality, speaking to more than 500 people.

Overall, she said the experience has given her a positive outlook on the progress towards gender equality, especially when it comes to youth who take for granted that gender doesn't dictate how you should behave or what you should like.

Masud has experienced those same types of gender stereotypes in her own life. She loved professional wrestling when she was younger, to the bewilderment of some friends who thought it was something only boys would enjoy. Now she says some friends label her as particularly feminine because of her love of writing poetry.

"I'm able to share my feelings through poetry and someone being able to share their feelings ... shouldn't be identified with a gender because no one should be not able to share their feelings."

> **No one should be not able to share their feelings.**
> Raisa Masud

IN BRIEF

'Several people' treated for smoke inhalation

Ottawa paramedics say "several people" have been treated for smoke inhalation following a fire in a community housing highrise apartment building at Wurtemburg St. and Rideau St. about 2:20 a.m Wednesday. Flames were visible from the window of a sixth floor apartment. Firefighters rescued some residents using an aerial ladder before the fire was brought under control.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man cuts himself while robbing jewelry store

Ottawa police are on the lookout for a man who robbed a jewelry store in the Carlingwood Mall by smashing a display case with a hammer. Police say the man walked in to the store around 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 2 and left after a brief chat with staff. He returned with a hammer and smashed a display case. He fled, but police say he seems to have cut himself on broken glass.
METRO

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Skip the turkey, go to a show instead

BACKSTAGE PASS

Where to be for live music this holiday weekend

Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

Don't pile up too much turkey on your plate, go easy on the gravy and limit yourself to just one piece of pumpkin pie — that is, if you want to take advantage of Ottawa's stellar music weekend this Thanksgiving.

There's nothing worse than trying to get off the couch Sunday afternoon for an all-night dance party after you've eaten the equivalent of a small child in turkey meat. Damn you, tryptophan.

If you're already planning on falling asleep to Die Hard with a Vengeance Sunday, then you can have your shame day and still get your funk on earlier in the week.

Metro has its picks for the upcoming Thanksgiving long weekend — a party every day for the electronic music head, the poppy Pete, and, of course, Trailer Park Bingo, turkey edition.

It all starts Thursday and runs through Sunday night.

Renée Landry and her band are playing a tribute to Amy Winehouse by performing Back to Black in its entirety Saturday night at Live! On Elgin. CONTRIBUTED

Thursday

Ryan Hemsworth
Babylon Nightclub, 9 p.m.

Nova Scotia's Ryan Hemsworth needs little introduction. If you saw his set at Ottawa Bluesfest in 2015, you've already told grandma that you can't make it out to the family farm until at least Friday evening, as you'll be neck deep in dirty, grimy, glitch trap. The Halifax-based producer and DJ has been making floors bounce since his debut album Guilt Trips in 2013, remixing artists such as Sole, Lana Del Rey, Shady Blaze and Quadron along the way. Ryan Hemsworth will make you dance your ass off, allowing you to fill up on a second helping of grandma's pumpkin pie, guilt-free.

Friday

The Luyas
Le Temporaire, Gatineau, 8 p.m.

You don't have to spend too much time with Montreal's The Luyas before things start getting weird. The experimental Avant-pop outfit will have you in a dream state from the first note, with its spacey reverb and echoing guitars that spiral into the abyss without any real sense of direction. That's the whole concept behind the indie four-piece: improvisation. Lend this band your ears and ride its hallucinogenic sonic wave all the way to the bottom.

Saturday

Back to Black: A tribute to Amy Winehouse featuring Renée Landry
Live! On Elgin, 8:30 p.m.

Many of us never had the chance to see the great Amy Winehouse live, after the 23-year-old singer died tragically in 2011. But the next best thing could be this weekend when Renée Landry and her band play a stripped down version of Winehouse's Back to Black album in its entirety. The smoky, sexy vocals of Landry will make this a magical night on its own. Toss in arguably one of the greatest neo-soul albums of all time and Live! on Elgin is now the place to be Saturday night.

Sunday

Trailer Park Bingo Turkey Party, Zaphod Beeblebrox 9 p.m.

Food fight at Zaphod's! Get ready to throw a plate of mashed potatoes as if it's a snowball fight. Find new, useful uses for creamed corn, and, of course, play some muthaf—in' bingo! Trailer Park Bingo is back Sunday night for its turkey edition at Zaphod's. You could win a turkey dog and other great prizes from Top of the World Skate shop, Vertigo Records, Wicked Wanda's, Noisy Kitchen Hot Sauce and more! The event is free and the perfect outing for any misfit who doesn't have anywhere to go on Thanksgiving. Zaphod's has your back.

There you have it, blame Metro if your nan is pissed that you spent nearly zero time playing monopoly with the cousins you've always despised. And recover Monday.

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Sara Jefferson and her dog, Dude, at Cathcart Park.
ADAM KVETON/FOR METRO

Parents, pet owners clash

PUBLIC SPACES

City seeks out solution for off-leash park, kids' play area

Adam Kveton
For Metro | Ottawa

Cats and dogs may be the bitterest of enemies, but the rift between dogs and kids is where the city has more trouble.

Lowertown's Cathcart Park is just the latest flashpoint in the struggle between parents and pet owners.

Rideau-Vanier Coun. Mathieu Fleury has received complaints from parents about dogs knocking kids over and using the sandy children's play area as a bathroom. He presented the community with a $250,000 proposal in September to fence the dogs off from the kids. That sparked an angry debate over who should be fenced off. Some dog owners suggested the kids' play area should be enclosed — or even removed completely from the park.

Fleury said removing either the dogs or the kids is not an option.

Annabelle Bibeau, a parent of three who frequents the park, said she values the dogs' presence there, but added a fenced area for the pups would be best.

Jennifer Mercier said she doesn't care what gets fenced off, but something must be done because the park is "pitting two different stakeholders against each other."

Though the park has been a designated dog park for a while, Fleury said the increase in families and pet owners in the area is what brought the issue to a head.

Cathcart Park isn't the only park grappling with the fence issue.

Earlier this year, McNabb Park had fences installed after complaints of off-leash dogs, while Terry Fox Park in Orléans was the focus of competing petitions — one to have the off-leash designation removed, and another to keep it.

IN BRIEF

Review may not clear air in province's deficit dispute

A spat between the province and the auditor general over what Ontario's true deficit is may repeat itself next year.

Auditor general Bonnie Lysyk's office and public-sector accountants disagree about how a pension surplus should be counted. Under decade-old rules, the deficit for 2015-16 would be $3.5 billion, but Lysyk says rules should be changed, leaving the deficit at $5 billion.

An expert review panel will look at the issue, but as neither parties are bound by whichever rules the panel sides with, the dispute could continue. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ENERGY EAST PIPELINE

Oil spill would affect water within 48 hours

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

It would take 48 hours for a major oil spill from the proposed Energy East pipeline to affect Ottawa's drinking water, a new report says.

Montreal-based Savaria Experts-Conseils Inc., an environmental consulting firm, has released a detailed analysis of how a major oil spill would work its way through watersheds in Ottawa and Gatineau if the 4,500-kilometre TransCanada project was to spring a leak nearby.

A spill in the Rideau River on Ottawa's southern border would take about 48 hours for the plume to reach the nearest municipal water intake system 52 kilometres downstream, the report found.

Where the pipeline crosses the Mississippi River west of Ottawa, a major spill would enter the Ottawa River and within 60 hours reach the city of Ottawa's nearest water intake 60 kilometres downstream.

"It in many ways confirms our worst fears," said Graham Saul, director of Ecology Ottawa, which commissioned the report with the Council of Canadians.

Even if you don't buy the environmental arguments, Saul noted the report estimates a $1-billion clean-up bill for a major spill and significant hits to the region's recreation and tourism industries.

TransCanada spokesperson Tim Duboyce said his team needs time to read the report before commenting on it, but said the company is committed to safety. "We share the same concerns as people do about water supply and safety," said Duboyce.

The city hasn't taken a stance yet, although it will be an official commentator in the stalled National Energy Board hearings when they eventually resume.

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Sexual Assault on Campus: A Metro Special Focus | Day 4: Dearth of data

No appetite for answers

Schools aren't collecting useful data on sexual assaults, and no one seems keen to make them

Rosemary Westwood
Metro | Toronto

When it comes to campus sexual assault in this country, simple questions do not net simple answers. Asking for the national number of sexual assaults is easy. But here's the truth: We have absolutely no idea. We don't even attempt to know the answer.

And we're unlikely to any time soon.

When the Toronto Star tried to get a handle on the national number of campus sexual assaults back in 2014, the effort proved fairly fruitless. Some schools collected data. Some did not. Some posted data publicly, and some did not. And, because what data did exist wasn't collected in a consistent manner, it was impossible to make meaningful comparisons between schools.

The CBC didn't fare much better in 2015. It found just 700 reported cases on 87 campuses between 2009 and 2013. But according to academic studies in the U.S., between one-in-five and one-in-three women will experience a sexual assault on campus. Applying those proportions to Canada suggests between 230,000 and 360,000 assaults among the 1.1 million women that Statistics Canada recorded as enrolled at Canada's post-secondary schools in the 2013-2014 academic year, when the agency last counted.

So even if all schools could be counted on to record and publicize every formally reported sexual assault, the results wouldn't come close to representing the true number of victims. Many survivors simply don't tell their schools anything.

For those who do tell their schools about assaults or harassment, there's often a choice between making a formal complaint — and thereby submitting to whatever investigation or adjudication process accompanies that — or keeping the complaint informal and appealing to campus administration not for justice but merely for support and accommodation — with regard to, say, housing arrangements or class schedules.

A recent Globe and Mail investigation found that only 10 per cent of reports from a sample of 20 Canadian schools became formal complaints. Crucially, many schools don't include informal complaints — the remaining 90 per cent of reported cases — in the publicly reported data. And, of course, many don't publicize data at all.

Take, for example, the University of Toronto, which unlike many schools has collected and made public some sexual-assault data since 2011. An information request by student paper the Strand discovered 137 cases in which a sexual assault was disclosed, and 22 formal reports at the university in 2015, with zero expulsions. (Althea Blackburn-Evans, the school's director of media relations, said the school has in fact banned students from campus for sexual assault between 2013 and 2015.)

Meanwhile, campus security data, which only holds sexual-assault complaints brought to campus police, shows only three formal sexual-assault reports in 2015 and seven in 2014.

U of T's track record demonstrates the problems that remain even when schools bother to collect and publicize data. But most schools in the country aren't legally required to do even that much — let alone do so according to standardized methods that could produce useful school-to-school and province-to-province comparisons.

Ontario's new sexual violence and harassment law, Bill 132, does include data and disclosure requirements, as does a private member's bill being considered in Manitoba. But B.C.'s Liberal government amended similar provisions out of a private member's bill in its legislature.

In the absence of mandated disclosure, students have no way of knowing how many assault and harassment victims have engaged their schools' disciplinary processes. In the odd math of sexual assault, high formal reporting rates may actually suggest that a school is doing something right, that students and staff trust the process — or, at least, that they can figure out how to access it.

According to Michele Dauber, a law professor at Stanford University and a prominent critic of U.S. sexual-assault policy, Canadian students won't be well served until the entire post-secondary sector gets on the same page.

"We have to have data and it has to be public," she said, "because that creates an unstoppable force of public pressure for change."

The biggest problem with government efforts to date, on both sides of the border, she said, is that they don't include victimization surveys. Students at every university or college should take "the same, uniform, anonymous" survey, she said, so that data is comparable across campuses. And it should be publicly available and searchable for all students.

If the U.S., which requires schools to report formal complaints of sexual assaults, had that kind of system, "this problem would have been solved 10 years ago."

Stanford students in Palo Alto, Calif., wear a 1/3 sign on their caps during graduation in June to show solidarity for a rape victim. The 1/3 represents a statistic that claims one in three students will experience a sexual assault by the time they graduate college. GABRIELLE LURIE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

10%

Percentage of reports that become formal complaints, according to the Globe and Mail

About the series

Mon. | The power of five
The most organized Canada-wide effort to combat campus sexual assault comes from an unlikely crew of five young women.

Tues. | A federal vacuum
The problem is national, but solutions have been regional and parochial.

Wed. | The U.S. example
The U.S.'s laws and White House directives combine to create more rigorous requirements for schools.

Thurs. | Dearth of data
We don't know how big the problem is because no one is incentivized to find out.

Fri. | The way ahead
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ACCIDENT PIGS DEAD IN TRUCK CRASH More than 100 pigs survived a truck crash in the Toronto area only to be marched to the slaughterhouse on foot shortly afterward. Police said there were approximately 180 pigs in the vehicle and most of them remained pinned inside as workers slowly removed them from the toppled truck and walked them to the plant. An estimated 40 pigs died. CONTRIBUTED/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DIVORCE

Japan denies claim it is 'black hole' for abducted kids

The Japanese government insists it has been complying with international child-abduction rules despite criticism to the contrary from Canadian parents who have been unable to gain access to their children in Japan.

In a statement, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said its top priority is to protect the interests of the children involved in such disputes.

"It is not right to see Japan as having legitimized child abduction in custody disputes, or of being a black hole for children whose parents are separated/divorced," the ministry said.

"We consider it highly important to deal with international child abduction in accordance with internationally standardized rules."

Earlier this week, The Canadian Press reported on the difficulties Canadian and other non-Japanese parents — mostly fathers — have in accessing their children in Japan after marital breakdowns. In some cases and despite court orders, the mothers have abducted the children and fled to Japan, where they remain with impunity, leaving the other parent frozen out.

Japan signed on to the Hague Convention on international child abductions in 2014 but parents say it has been of little help in getting their children returned to Canada, or even in getting access to them.

Colin Jones, a Canadian lawyer in Kyoto, said in an interview Wednesday that the problem isn't so much with adherence to the Hague Convention, but rather with a Japanese court system that lacks tools for forcing people to return children. Police will typically not get involved in custody battles, he said, and no one will use force to separate a child from a parent unwilling to hand them over.

"Even if you win, you have trouble getting the child back," Jones said. "A really recalcitrant parent can frustrate the process."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

We'll always have Paris

ENVIRONMENT

Commons votes to ratify global climate agreement

The House of Commons voted Wednesday to ratify the Paris agreement on climate change, cementing a cornerstone of the Liberal government's environmental policy and helping to tip the scales on the global deal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

After proposed amendments went down to defeat, the motion to ratify the deal passed by a margin of 207 to 81, with the New Democrats voting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his majority Liberal caucus.

The Opposition Conservatives, who tried to amend the motion to do away with Trudeau's controversial carbon-pricing plan, voted against ratifying the accord.

Wednesday's vote — paired with similar expressions of support from the European Union and Nepal — means the deal comes into force in 30 days, after the number of countries ratifying the accord passed a key threshold.

The agreement, which calls for emissions reductions limiting global temperature increase to well below 2 degrees C, only takes effect 30 days after it is adopted by 55 countries representing at least 55 per cent of global emissions.

The debate over Paris became contentious earlier this week when Trudeau announced plans to impose a minimum carbon price on provinces and territories that have not done it themselves.

The plan requires that provinces and territories establish a mechanism, either a cap-and-trade plan or carbon price, of at least $10 per tonne of emissions in 2018, rising to $50 a tonne in 2022.

The Conservatives had said they would not support the motion without an amendment, which went down to defeat Wednesday, that would have forced the Liberal government to abandon its carbon-pricing plan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Judicial Council asks for more disciplinary options

The Canadian Judicial Council wants more flexibility when it comes to deciding how a federally appointed judge should be disciplined for misconduct. The council is asking the Liberal government to amend the Judicial Act to give it the formal authority to impose a range of remedial measures or sanctions. This comes as a panel is in deliberations following a disciplinary hearing for Federal Court Justice Robin Camp, who asked a sex assault complainant why she didn't keep her knees together.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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REFUGEES ANOTHER MASS CROSSING OF RIVER Greek police detained 214 Syrian refugees after they crossed a river that forms a natural border with Turkey, authorities said Wednesday. The announcement marked the second recent mass crossing of the Evros River — 107 refugees were detained in the same border area last week. Migrants are seeking alternative routes to the E.U. after a crackdown on crossings to the Greek islands started in March. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Guterres is top choice to lead UN

POLITICS

Ex-PM of Portugal slated to be world body's next chief

Portugal's former prime minister Antonio Guterres won the Security Council's unanimous backing Wednesday to become the next UN secretary-general, winning plaudits for his strong leadership but disappointing campaigners for a woman or East European to be the world's top diplomat for the first time.

The veteran politician and diplomat, who served as the UN's refugee chief until December, topped all six informal polls in the council after his performance in the first-ever question-and-answer sessions in the 193-member General Assembly, which received high marks from almost every diplomat.

Antonio Guterres

Britain's UN Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said the assembly hearings showed that Guterres "was an outstanding candidate … who will take the United Nations to the next level in terms of leadership" and will provide "a moral authority at a time when the world is divided on issues, above all like Syria."

Russia's UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, the current Security Council president, appeared before reporters surrounded by the 14 other council ambassadors after the sixth informal poll of the 10 remaining candidates was held behind closed doors saying: "You are witnessing, I think, a historic scene."

Churkin then thanked all the candidates saying they displayed "a lot of wisdom, understanding and concern for the fate of the world" and announced: "We have a clear favourite, and his name is Antonio Guterres."

He said the Security Council would hold a formal vote on Thursday morning and expressed hope that the council will recommend Guterres by "acclamation" to the 193-member General Assembly, which must approve a successor to Ban Ki-moon whose second five-year term ends on Dec. 31.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Syria's Aleppo pledge

Syria's military command says it will scale back its bombardment of Aleppo to allow civilians to evacuate the contested city's eastern, rebel-held neighbourhoods.

In a statement carried on the state news agency Wednesday, the military command said civilians wishing to leave eastern Aleppo could move to the city's government-held western side. The UN says 275,000 people are trapped inside the government's siege of the city's east.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEATHER

Hurricane Matthew aims for the Bahamas

Rescue workers in Haiti struggled to reach isolated towns and learn the full extent of the death and destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew as the powerful storm battered the Bahamas on Wednesday and triggered large-scale evacuations along the U.S. East Coast.

At least 11 deaths were blamed on the hurricane during its weeklong march across the Caribbean, five of them in Haiti. But with a key bridge washed out, roads impassable and phone communications down, the western tip of Haiti remained cut off a day after Matthew made landfall and there was no full accounting of the dead and injured in its wake.

After moving past Haiti, Matthew rolled across a corner of Cuba and then began pounding the southern Bahamas with winds of 195 kph and heavy rain on a course expected to take it near the capital city of Nassau during the night.

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RETAIL

Upscale sporting goods chain expands

Nichole Jankowski
For Metro

David Russell has more confidence in Alberta's economy than he does in the seasons.

The opening of a 46,000-square-foot Sporting Life store in Calgary's Southcentre Mall is just the half of it.

Russell, the president, CEO and co-founder of the upscale sporting goods retailer, says the Canadian "fashletics" (that's fashion and athletics) chain will be opening a second Calgary location next year, creating another roughly 135 full- and part-time positions.

"Calgary is our number two ship-to city in Canada," says Russell, speaking of the company's e-commerce business, which now accounts for more than 10 per cent of sales.

Sportswear was one of the fastest growing apparel-related categories in 2015, accounting for 12 per cent of the market. And as millennials shift their spending from goods to experience, sporting equipment is inextricably linked — you better be wearing a good pair of skis when you tackle that triple black diamond.

Russell believes Albertans' outdoor lifestyle and the province's climate are well-suited to their business, which began in 1979 as a ski and racket store in Toronto and now sells high-end fashion as well as athletic equipment. The venture into Calgary is the company's first bid outside of Ontario.

At a rate of about two a year, the company plans to open more locations. There's a store coming to Richmond Hill, Ont., later this month, plus another Toronto store next year. Then, there are plans for three stores in Vancouver, one in Edmonton and as many three in Montreal.

Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce member Darrell Brown, who owns Kisik Commercial Furniture in Winnipeg, supports the expansion plan. LYLE STAFFORD/FOR METRO

Indigenous chamber eyes growth

ADVOCACY

Manitoba body plans to be a national organization

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Indigenous business leaders from coast to coast may soon have a unified voice.

That's because the Winnipeg-based Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce, which improves opportunities for Manitoba's indigenous and northern businesses, is planning to extend its reach by becoming a national body.

"We're going to be there within a year," said board member Damon Johnston. "It's always been part of the conversation ... we're now executing necessary moves to get there, doing due diligence, we've looked at the financial viability."

His vision is for the expanded chamber to raise the profile of Indigenous businesses across Canada, network to "create opportunities for indigenous entrepreneurs," and advocate on their behalf.

At its core, the plan is about "the indigenous business community in the country catching up with the broader business community."

Chamber member Darrell Brown, who owns Kisik Commercial Furniture in Winnipeg, supports the expansion plan.

"We want a strong voice for policy," he said. "If we are asked to give feedback to the finance minister on a federal or provincial budget, we'd want our chamber to be putting our voice forward as a collective membership on issues like that."

Johnston explained how the chamber, in its current form, has been growing in Manitoba since it was founded in 2004. It has around 150 members.

Each year, it coordinates more events, adds more profiles to its website, and organizes seminars and learning opportunities.

IN BRIEF

Toronto home sales soar

Housing sales in Toronto soared last month, with the average price rising 20.4 per cent from September last year. The number of transactions rose 21.5 per cent, a stark contrast to the big drop in the same month in Vancouver's market.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, October 6, 2016

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON THE NEXT PQ LEADER

The new Parti Québécois leader, to be announced Friday night on the heels of an all-members vote, will inherit a fractured party, short on new blood and rife with personal and policy divisions.

It is hard enough to be an opposition leader without starting out with knives sticking out of one's back. But that is the fate that awaits the next leader of the Parti Québécois, whoever he or she might be.

The winner — to be announced Friday night on the heels of an all-members vote — will inherit a fractured party, short on new blood and rife with personal and policy divisions.

Far from reconciling the various factions that make up what is left of the PQ coalition, the leadership campaign has exacerbated differences on referendum strategy and highlighted divisions on the party's approach to the accommodation of religious minorities.

This week's vote is not expected to resolve those issues. On the contrary, it could lead to more showdowns and possibly a party schism on the road to a general Quebec election scheduled for 2018.

Former provincial minister Martine Ouellet made the holding of a referendum on Quebec's independence at the first opportunity the mantra of her campaign.

She is facing long odds in this week's vote. Most PQ members can do the math and see that it adds up to a glaring deficit of support for sovereignty. But she is not about to take no for an answer.

Should she lose her leadership bid, Ouellet vouches to continue the fight to ensure that a referendum is in the party's 2018 election platform.

By all indications, the leadership vote boils down to a closer-than-expected contest between two other former PQ ministers, Jean-François Lisée and Alexandre Cloutier. They hold irreconcilable views on the accommodation of religious minorities.

Parti Quebecois leadership candidates Paul St-Pierre-Plamondon, from the left, Jean-Francois Lisee, Alexandre Cloutier and Martine Ouellet join hands at the end of a debate in Quebec City on Monday. THE CANDIAN PRESS

Over the last stretch of the campaign, Lisée has advocated a softer version of the PQ's controversial secularism charter and suggested, among other measures, a ban on the wearing of burkas and niqabs in public.

Cloutier is determined to not revisit that particular battlefield. He believes the charter episode has cut off the party not only from more recent Quebecers but also from younger voters.

The numbers tend to support his case. The accommodation debate has negative traction among those aged 18 to 34 but relatively strong legs among older voters. The latter happen to be disproportionally represented within the PQ.

The leadership campaign has done little to re-energize the party. Together, the candidates recruited 12,000 new members but 17,000 existing ones declined to renew their membership. The average age of the PQ base hovers around 60 years old.

This will be the sixth changing of the guard since Jacques Parizeau resigned the day after the 1995 referendum. Over that period, the party's drive to make the province independent has become increasingly divorced from the mainstream concerns of voters.

A recent CBC-Angus Reid Institute poll found that 75 per cent of Quebecers do not expect the province to secede from Canada. Two thirds feel the sovereignty debate has played itself out.

Essentially the PQ has just spent six months playing on its most divisive weaknesses to the detriment of its social-democratic strengths.

When all is said and done, its best hope of returning to government would be to convince the scores of progressive voters — many of them federalists — who are turned off by the austerity policies of premier Philippe Couillard's Liberal government, to coalesce behind the party.

But since the last referendum, sovereigntist sympathizers have been more likely to cross the divide to support progressive policies — as they did in the case of Jack Layton's NDP in 2011 or, more recently, Justin Trudeau's Liberals — than the reverse. And someone who voted for one or the other of these federal leaders is unlikely to be attracted to variations on the defunct secularism charter.

If one had to use one word to sum up the PQ campaign, it would be acrimonious.

Just this week Ouellet accused her rivals of undermining the sovereignty project by refusing to commit to a referendum in the next PQ mandate.

Cloutier received hate mails for taking his distance from charter-style identity politics. At one of the debates, he was booed for pointing out that Quebec did not have the constitutional right to ban English from its court system.

There are lessons in the corrosive unfolding of this exercise for the fractious federal Conservatives. It is one thing to drop the gloves to drive home wedge issues in the heat of a leadership campaign, and another to live with the consequences on the morning after the battle.

Most PQ members can do the math and see a glaring deficit of support for sovereignty.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro on Thursdays.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

Good to know that my government cares about racism — sometimes

When a fan throws a beer can at a Jays game, you know the Ontario Attorney General's going to have something to say about it.

And sure enough, that kind of bad behaviour just won't be tolerated.

Fans ought to be "responsible and respectful" Yasir Naqvi told the Sun newspaper. Beer can throwing? Definite no-no. But it makes for a great headline. And even better Twitter investigation fodder for journalists (one even found the perp!).

Less fun and a much less popular headline: Jays fans spew racial slurs at opposing Orioles. That's what some Orioles players said they got, instead of a beer can.

Naqvi has some words there, too: "I think we all know that if there are ever racial slurs used towards anybody then that's unacceptable in the society we live in."

Well, phew. So glad he said it. Because, you know, he might want to talk to a few Ontario police forces.

Yesterday, APTN reported that Thunder Bay police have suspended one officer and put four more on administrative duties in the wake of racist comments posted to the Facebook page of The Chronicle Journal newspaper.

Here's the alleged post of Const. Robert Steudle, suspended with pay: "Natives are killing natives and it's the white man's fault natives are drunk and on the street and its white man's fault natives are homeless and its white man's fault and now natives are lying about how they are treated by white men an explanation is given and it's the white men who are lying. Well let's stop giving the natives money and see how that goes."

Over in Ottawa, Sgt. Chris Hrnchiar remains on active duty after allegedly posting this below the Ottawa Citizen report of the death of famed Inuk artist Annie Pootoogook: "And of course this has nothing to do with missing and murdered Aboriginal women.....it's not a murder case.....it's could be a suicide, accidental, she got drunk and fell in the river and drowned who knows.....typically many Aboriginals have very short lifespans, talent or not."

Hrnchiar went on: "Because much of the aboriginal population in Canada is just satisfied being alcohol or drug abusers, living in poor conditions etc..... They have to have the will to change, it's not society's fault."

Ottawa police are investigating the comments, but the chief said that police, like everyone, will have "conscious or unconscious biases," which should not impact their work.

That's a funny, roundabout way of saying we need to fight racism in police forces. Like, you know, the drunken Indian stereotype, or the idea that a whole class of people deserves poverty, lack of education, access to clean water, to health, safety, and freedom.

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ANALYSIS

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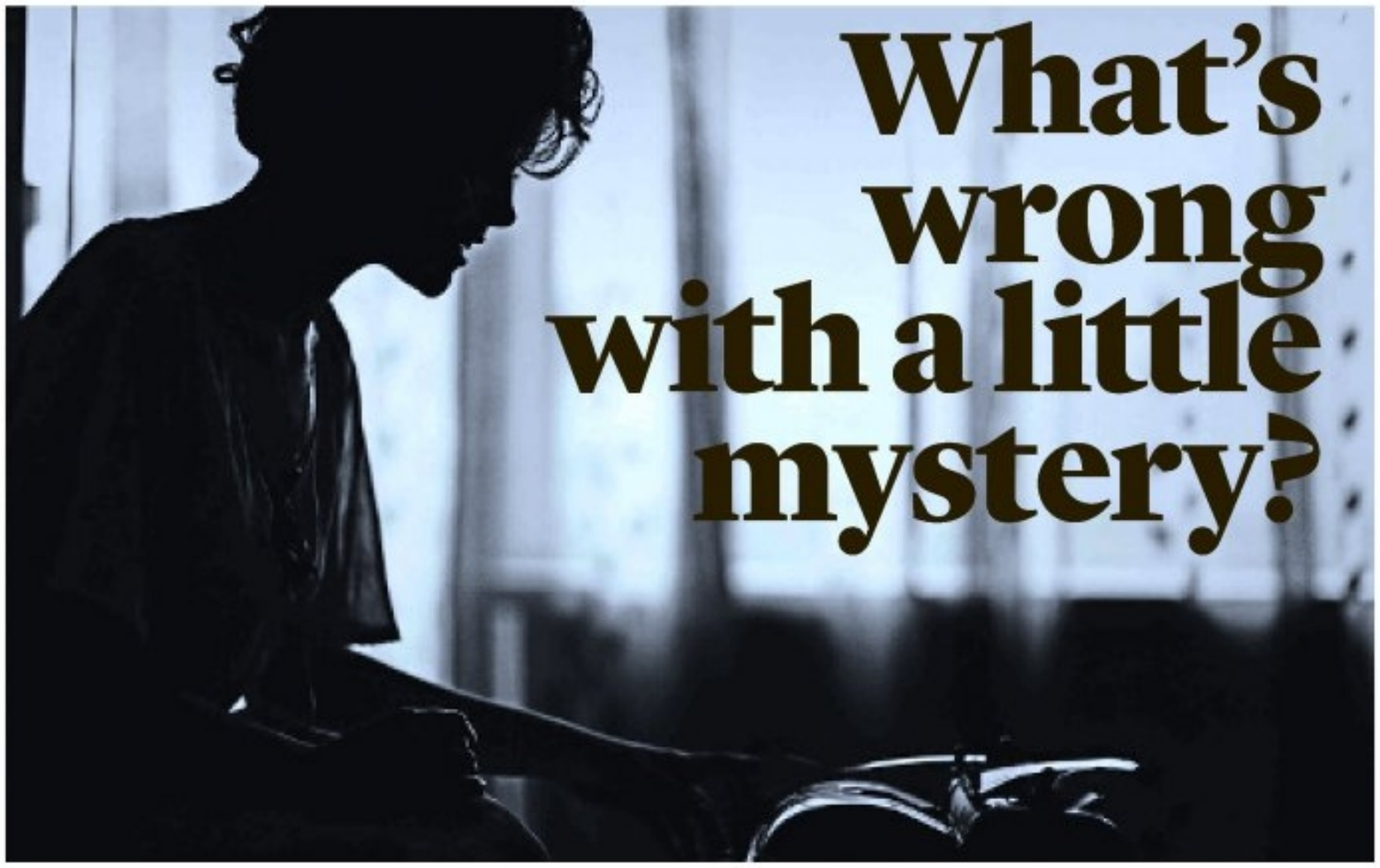
Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



What's wrong with a little mystery?

What is it exactly that we expect from our authors these days? It's not enough to just write a novel anymore — a gruelling enough feat — or endure the occasional book signing, writers are now expected to engage with readers on social media like never before.

It comes naturally to some: Margaret Atwood, who is a Twitter pro, once drew superhero costumes for two comics-loving followers, and Joyce Carol Oates — who never seems to sleep — tweets constantly about politics, her feed peppered with photos of cats and city gardens.

Thanks to social media, we know that Stephen King loves the Netflix show Stranger Things and cranking up Grandmaster Flash on Saturday nights.

Social media, while allowing minor glimpses into the lives of public figures, has also created a false sense of personal connection with fans. Ironically, it's Elena Ferrante's absence from this world that has made her a literary phenomenon.

On Sunday, after writer Claudio Gatti claimed to have discovered her identity and outed her in The New York Review of Books, fans of the pseudonymous best-selling Italian author reacted swiftly with anger.

I'm sure that the Review editors expected readers to be grateful, and you can't blame them, really; after all, we live in a TMZ world that devoured all the sordid details of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's split.

But in a few interviews, Ferrante has been adamant that her cherished anonymity is what allows her to focus on her craft, and if she were to be revealed, she would stop writing.

Fans, including notables like Salman Rushdie, rushed to defend her privacy, and their own right to not know.

Until now, Ferrante has enjoyed the best of both worlds. She could lead her life and pursue her profession on her own terms. Meanwhile — and without her ever participating — the delicious secret surrounding her identity became her "personal brand" (another repercussion of the online world: authors must now market themselves like products).

After the English translation of her four-novel Neapolitan series became cultishly popular, tourism in Naples, where the books are set, increased thanks to what's been dubbed "Ferrante fever."

Even local pizza parlours are naming pies after her.

Last year I spoke to Paula Hawkins, author of one of the biggest books in the world, The Girl on the Train, about the personal effects of massive success.

"I'm not recognized, so I can go back and live the same normal life, which is lovely," she said.

Hawkins is active on Twitter (after the Review of Books Ferrante article came out, she posted "Leave her the hell alone") and attends public events, but that is her professional decision.

Over the years, the notoriously reclusive author Thomas Pynchon has endured his own share of snooping.

There's even an annual Pynchon in Public Day on May 8, but it's a good-natured event, where fans are encouraged to post photos of themselves reading the author's books. And when Pynchon made a cameo appearance on The Simpsons wearing a paper bag adorned with a question mark, it was a knowing wink: he's in on the joke, too.

But what happened to Ferrante, and ultimately to her die-hard fans, was not funny. Even when the media attaches a name to British street artist Banksy — whose identity is the biggest mysteries in the cultural world — there has never been this kind of backlash.

Some speculate there's a deep undercurrent of misogyny, that a woman's space has been once again violated, despite her pleas for anonymity.

But perhaps in a world where so much information is available to us, and we can find out what George R.R. Martin ate for breakfast, a little mystery is actually a welcome and needed respite.

It was all about falling in love with Ferrante's books, not clicking the Like button.

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

Using noir fiction as a vicarious literary release

INTERVIEW

Hugh Fraser finds pleasure in penning violent thrillers

Laura Boast
Metro | Canada

It would be easy to mistake Hugh Fraser for his character Captain Hastings in the BBC mystery series Poirot. His portrayal of Hercule Poirot's genteel, dependable, and dashing sidekick is not too far off the real man.

But should you mistake the man for his character, you would be very mistaken indeed.

Underneath Fraser's patrician good looks and impeccable manners, lurking in his 'little grey cells,' as Poirot would say, is a killer. A contract killer, to be precise — named Rina Walker.

Rina is Fraser's creation. The actor is now a crime novelist, and his thrillers — Harm, published last year, and Threat, just out — are as far away from Christie's cosy settings as you could get.

His anti-heroine's childhood in London is less art deco, more 1950s squalor. Rina's adulthood is spent in the world of drug trafficking and assassinations. It's enough to make Miss Marple tut-tut in disapproval.

We sat down with Fraser — to tea, naturally — at U.K.'s Crimefest to talk about his decision to write thrillers steeped in violence. It started with his own appreciation for the genre, he says, praising Quentin Tarantino's The Hateful Eight.

"I think I have always had some taste for the noir," he says. "I restrain my dark side, hopefully, quite effectively. Except I have dark urges like the guy in front of you at the traffic lights. Reading books and watching violent films is a vicarious release."

He admits writing dark scenes is even more cathartic.

"I'm rebelling against typecasting," says Fraser.

The dialogue in his books is coarse — particularly that of Rina's childhood in Notting Hill, a rough part of London in the '50s. Fraser says his experience as an actor helped.

"As an actor, your point of interest is to read the dialogue in films and TV, so I think I may have become accustomed to narrative through dialogue," he says.

It also helped that he heard real-life conversations as an acting student in Notting Hill in 1964.

He remembers the slums, racial tension, and gangsters. What is now a gastropub was at the time a hangout for local thugs.

"I shared a room with another student and we used to visit a greasy spoon café," he recalls.

Years later on a movie set, Fraser met the café owner, who'd become a caterer. The actor asked what happened to the greasy spoon.

"The local villains made me store stolen property," the caterer said, and told Fraser how he had discovered guns in the back of his café one day. That was the end of the greasy spoon for him.

So Fraser has had brushes with criminality, but what about women like his tough, ruthless protagonist, Rina?

Turns out he's descended from a long line of strong women.

His great aunts were suffragettes. One was arrested for smashing windows at a protest and imprisoned with others, becoming part of the 1916 hunger strike at Holloway prison, immortalized in the 2015 film Suffragette. She was force-fed and beaten senseless by police in the ordeal.

While he doesn't shy away from violence against women in his writing, he wants to demonstrate their courage fighting back. Threat, the sequel to his first book, shows Rina grappling with, and trying to escape from, the criminal underworld of which she's part.

"It's like a lobster pot," he says of his character's place in that world.

"It's an easy life to get into, and difficult to get out of."

I restrain my dark side, hopefully, quite effectively. Except I have dark urges like the guy in front of you at the traffic lights Hugh Fraser

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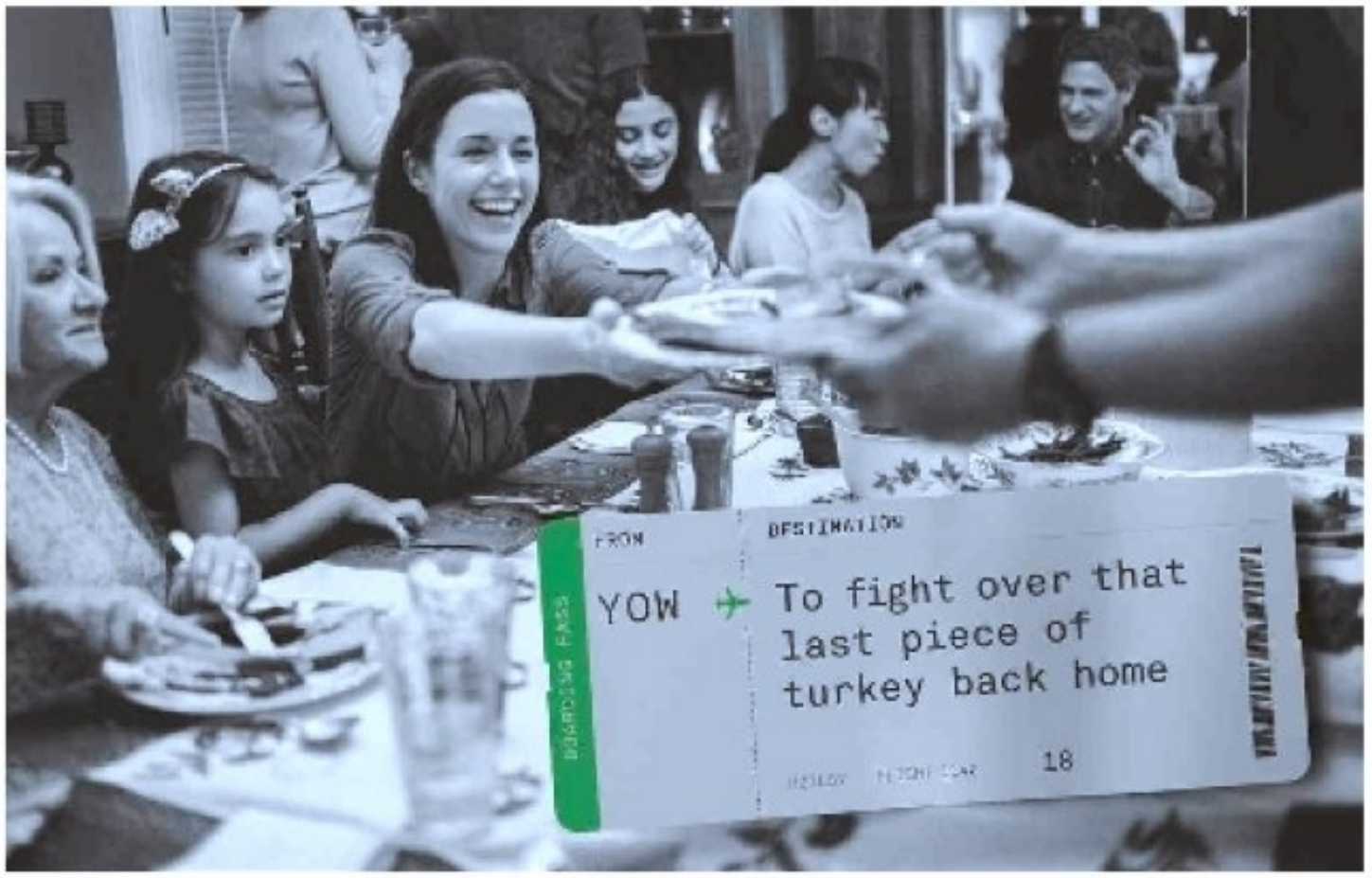

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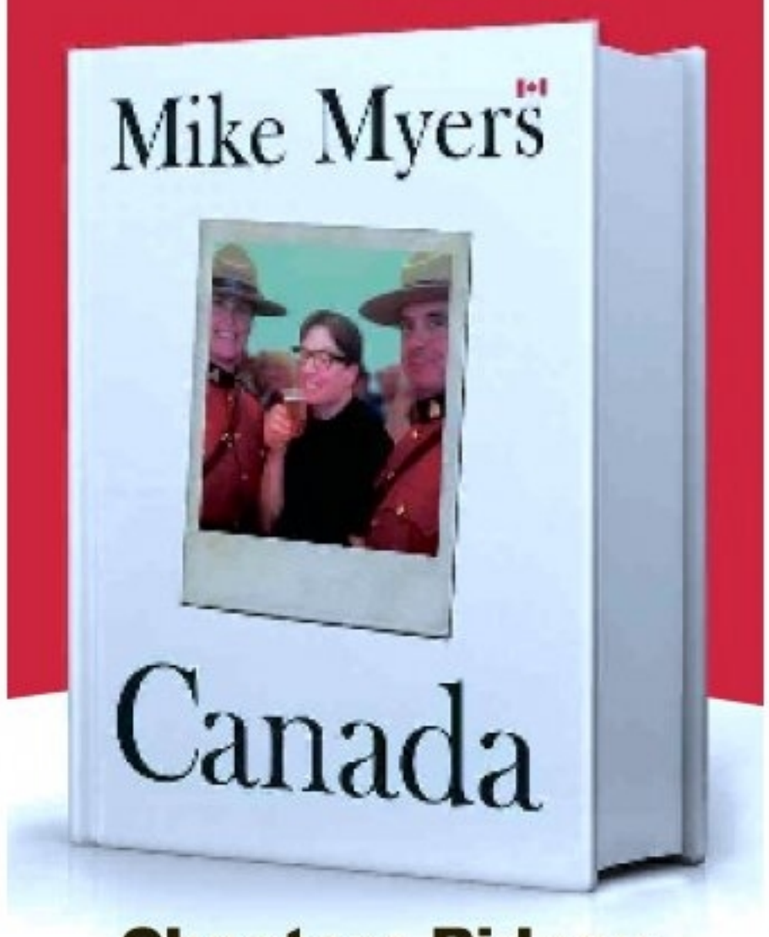

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NON-FICTION

Violent attack sets scene for story of Russian ballet company

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Princeton University music professor Simon Morrison had been spending a lot of time in Moscow doing research when the news broke in 2013 that Sergei Filin, the artistic director for the Bolshoi Ballet, had been severely burned and almost blinded after acid was thrown in his face by an anonymous attacker.

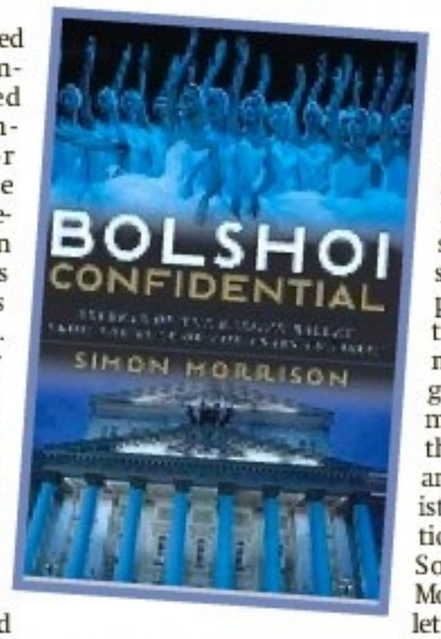
Morrison had contacts within the theatre, and so was encouraged by his agent to write a story about the attack and his personal observations of one of the world's most venerable dance companies. He met with Filin and members of his inner circle, but at this point, no one knew that the mastermind behind the violence was a volatile, ego-driven solo Bolshoi dancer named Pavel Dmitrichenko, who was angry at Filin for not casting his girlfriend in lead roles.

"I was talking with the theatre about this case in the darkest moment of it, when it was unclear why it had happened and who was responsible, and there were all these rumours swirling," Morrison says.

Even after Dmitrichenko was charged and imprisoned, Morrison was hooked by the story. He continued to dig deep through various city archives to learn more, and discovered this crime wasn't an isolated incident in the Bolshoi's tumultuous 240-year history.

"It had always been a tempest," he says. Insiders revealed to Morrison that "this was something of a horrible sideshow in the history of a really complicated theatrical enterprise," which made him wonder, exactly how did the dysfunctional Bolshoi come to create some of the world's most memorable, breathtaking art?

Morrison answers that question in his new book, Bolshoi Confidential: Secrets of the Russian Ballet from the Rule of the Tsars to Today, an impressive, sweeping account of the theatre from its beginnings in 1776, under the rule of a charlatan Englishman named Michael Maddox, described as a crimson-cloaked "mathematician or tightrope walker," depending on which of his anecdotes you believe. In its early days, the ballet was considered to be a "second-tier tawdry art form," says Morrison, and there were calls for its abolishment.



The theatre went bankrupt several times, dancers were treated horrifically, and Morrison recounts so many devastating fires and rebuilds, it's almost comical. Yet, as he observes, "It was during these really, really dark times that these masterpieces came to be, like Don Quixote and Swan Lake."

Bolshoi Confidential also examines how ballet has been used in Russia over the centuries as a propaganda tool, and how the dance evolved into the gruelling classical form recognized today. For most of its history, Morrison says, the Bolshoi wasn't about physical perfection; it was "far more real and gritty and human." But during the 20th century, and the Communist Party's promotion of the "New Soviet person," Morrison says, "Ballet became the embodiment of this superhuman athleticism."

While there are many episodes in the Bolshoi's past that could easily be framed as a real-life Black Swan — including Dmitrichenko's recent claims that he wants to return to the ballet now that he's out of prison — Morrison says the reality is much more complex and nuanced. "The thing I came away with is that this is not the easiest world to understand," he says. "I just tried my best to at least understand a portion of it."

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Atwood on Shakespearean insults

INTERVIEW

A wicked twist in the retelling of The Tempest with Hag-Seed

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

In many ways, Margaret Atwood in person is exactly how you might expect her to be.

She speaks carefully, chin lowered so her celestial blue eyes gaze upwards while making contact with mine. In a half-hour conversation she moves swiftly between references to The Oresteia, to Titus Andronicus, to comic books like Mama Tits Saves the World. I stop taking notes, praying my recorder doesn't fail, because it feels like I need my total concentration; like my neurons are firing on overdrive. "Be cool; be smart!" I'm thinking.

What's unexpected in meeting Atwood is how her jokes and cultural references remind me of the impish sense of humour from her novels. By the end of the interview, she's explaining why it's important to be more creative with our cuss words — maybe like the cultured, foulmouthed French. ("I think that the French are extremely inventive with their swearing. Moreso than the English at the moment," she says.)

Her latest book, Hag-Seed, takes place in a town that's a train ride away from Toronto — the Stratford, Ont.-like home of Makeshiweg Theatre Festival where artistic director Felix Phillips has been fired just before he is able to put on his version of Shakespeare's The Tempest. After going into a self-imposed exile, he begins teaching at a correctional facility where he eventually decides to put the play on with prisoners as the actors and producers. Much like the base material, Atwood's story is one of revenge, imprisonment, and ultimately forgiveness.

But the Tempest is a weird play.

"It's not like anything else in Shakespeare," says Atwood, about why she chose to re-imagine it for The Hogarth Shakespeare Series (Knopf Canada) that has popular novelists put their own spin on the works of The Bard.

"If you read The Tempest closely, you'll realize, as indeed is pointed out, that everybody in it is in prison at some point in their life. Or they're being threatened with it. And the last three words of Prospero are 'set me free.' So 'What is he imprisoned by?' is one of the questions."

Atwood read prison literature to research the theme: A Crowbar in the Buddhist Garden, Running the Books: The Adventures of an Accidental Prison Librarian, even Orange is the New Black. But Laura Bates' memoir Shakespeare Saved My Life was perhaps most helpful in depicting how criminals relate to the literature.

"She said she got better papers out of those people than she got out of her regular university students because they've been there done that. Macbeth, they really understood," Atwood jokes.

In addition to the Shakespearean themes of violence, grief and obsession, Atwood's Hag-Seed also touches on the benefits of education in prisons, and how a tough-on-crime approach seems outdated. Felix Phillips's nemeses decide to pull the plug on his literacy program, calling it an indulgence.

"I think we really need to rethink what prisons are for," says Atwood. "We know that if you educate people, it gives them a whole new open door," she says.

It also allows people to express themselves in different ways, some more noble than others. Because the prisoners in the book are prone to salty language, Atwood's character bans swear words in the workshops, encouraging the cast to use Shakespeare's words to insult one another instead. Suddenly, they're referring to one another as "pox brain," "whoreson," "freckled whelp" and "widechapp'd rascal."

"Sometimes blocking off one line of communication makes you very inventive in other ways," says Atwood, adding she is a fan of the Shakespearean insult generators online, but doesn't necessarily have a favourite.

She has, however, read Merde!: The Real French You Were Never Taught at School, to tap into the ingenious slurs of the French.

"So now I can understand much better what people are saying. I once heard a taxi driver say to another taxi driver, "So you learned to drive with your ass— or what?"

Margaret Atwood's latest novel, Hag-Seed, is a retelling of The Tempest. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

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MEET THE CONDO

Carling in Crystal Beach

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Cardel Homes is building a new collection of low-rise condos in the Crystal Beach neighbourhood. The project will launch this November and will break ground in early 2017. Homeowners can move in to the 15-unit building in mid 2018.

Housing amenities

The condominium will include heated underground parking and a storage locker. Buyers will have the option of six different floor plans with a private balcony or terrace. The units include nine-foot ceilings, large windows, granite countertops and air conditioning. Carling Condos offers maintenance-free living that works well for professionals and downsizers.

Location and transit

Carling Condos will be located close to public transit routes, bike paths, trails, local restaurants and shopping options like the Bayshore Shopping Centre. Homeowners will be only a two-minute drive from Hwy 417, which makes getting downtown quick and easy. There are also schools, recreational facilities and a community centre in the area.

In the neighbourhood

Crystal Beach is a largely residential neighbourhood with a strong community feel. It is a prime real-estate location because it is so close to the Nepean Sailing Club and Andrew Hayden Park, which has a wide variety of walking paths and outdoor events. Residents can also enjoy a view of the Ottawa River and the Gatineau Hills. ILANA REIMER/FOR METRO

NEED TO KNOW

What: Carling Condos
Builder: Cardel Homes
Designer: Cardel Homes
Location: Off of Carling Avenue
Building: Low-rise condominiums
Size: 835 square feet to 1,390 square feet
Pricing: To be released in November
Model: One to three bedrooms
Status: Now selling
Occupancy: Mid 2018
Sales centre: 102 Westphalian Ave.
Phone: 613-836-9521
Website: cardelhomes.com

Think of succulents as the new African violets: They're easy, disease-resistant and thrive in the dry heat common inside homes in the winter. DEAN FOSDICK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOW MAINTENANCE

Succulents are perfect for the season

If you're shifting to houseplants as cold weather approaches, consider gardening with succulents. Succulents are easy, disease-resistant, and thrive despite the dry air common indoors in winter. Think of them as the new African violets.

"They require so little care. They look good all the time and they do well in low humidity," said Gary Bachman, a research professor with Mississippi State University Extension in Biloxi.

Their soft, juicy leaves and enlarged stems allow the plants to store water under dry conditions.

"The only thing the homeowner can do wrong is overwater," Bachman said. "They won't like it in containers that don't drain well."

Succulents offer a wide variety of eye-catching foliage and flower colours.

"Growth habits include everything from ground-hugging creepers to upright growers," Bachman said.

Pruning generally is not required because the plants tend to be slow growers, he said.

Most succulents are tender plants — natives of frost-free areas — so planting them in shallow trays makes it simple to carry them inside before the killer frosts arrive.

"Succulents also are easy to plant indoors," Bachman said. "They look great on windowsills and bright office spaces."

Growing them in ornamental containers gives them a decorative edge when grouped with other houseplants. Combining several different kinds of succulents creates attractive dish gardens. Choose plants with similar growth habits and care needs, though. That makes them easier to care for.

Some succulents are hardier than others, but it's best to look at them as a group, Bachman said.

"Most require some care or protection in northern climates, although here in Mississippi and around the South, they generally can stay outdoors 12 months," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro SPORTS

Sportsnet said Tuesday's AL wild-card game was its most-watched program this year with an average audience of 4.02 million viewers

Let's get ready to rumble

MLB PLAYOFFS

Jays prepare for Rangers in rematch of last year's ALDS

The bad blood between the Texas Rangers and Toronto Blue Jays has been on a steady boil since Jose Bautista's infamous bat flip in last year's American League Division Series.

A Rougned Odor right hook to Bautista's jaw after a hard slide last May took things to another level.

Simply put, these teams can't stand each other. And now they're ready to square off again for the right to advance to Major League Baseball's final four.

Toronto's dramatic wild-card game victory over Baltimore on Tuesday night set the stage for another round in this dogfight between bitter rivals.

Buckle up baseball fans: this best-of-five series starting Thursday at Globe Life Park could get wild.

On one side is the top-seeded team in the American League. The Rangers secured home-field advantage through the playoffs with a 95-67 record in the regular season.

On the other is a Blue Jays club that finished with an 89-73 mark but was forced to go into Game 7 mode for its last three games due to a September slump.

The Rangers are the favourites but the Blue Jays shouldn't be counted out.

Rangers second baseman Rougned Odor rocks the Blue Jays' Jose Bautista during the last game played between the two teams in Arlington, Texas, on May 15. RICHARD W. RODRIGUEZ/STAR-TELEGRAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROBABLE PITCHERS

Toronto has announced its starting pitchers for the first three games:

- GAME 1: **Marco Estrada** (9-9, 3.48 ERA) vs. Cole Hamels (15-5, 3.32); Thursday, 4:30 p.m. ET
- GAME 2: **J.A. Happ** (20-4, 3.18) vs. Yu Darvish (7-5, 3.41); Friday, 1 p.m. ET
- GAME 3: TBA vs. **Aaron Sanchez** (15-2, 3.00 ERA); Sunday, 7:30 p.m. ET

"We're just looking to put them away," Bautista said. "We've got to win some ball games. The offence has been streaky so hopefully we can get on a roll."

Toronto has thrived under the recent pressure.

Weekend wins over the Boston Red Sox were impressive and Edwin Encarnacion's three-run homer in the 11th inning on Tuesday eliminated the Orioles and electrified Rogers Centre.

"We're not done," Blue Jays pitcher Marcus Stroman said afterwards in the champagne-soaked locker-room. "We realize what we're capable of and we're going to take this (momentum) into the next series."

Toronto had a 4-3 edge in the season series over the Rangers.

Roberto Osuna
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Despite Tuesday night's heroics, there was cause for concern when Roberto Osuna left the game in the 10th inning due to a problem with his throwing shoulder.

He described it as a pain-free "stretch" feeling, but expected to be ready for Game 2 after a couple days off.

"It wasn't a big deal," said Blue Jays manager John Gibbons. "It just tightened up on him. The smart thing to do was just get him out of there."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHICAGO

Long-suffering Cubs fans hope this is the year

Jon Lester will start for the Cubs when they take the field on Friday against the NL wild-card winner. GETTY IMAGES

Oct. 6, 1945. Nick Paolella knows the date by heart and he knows the Chicago Cubs lost. The rest has faded away over time.

It was Game 4 of the World Series against the Detroit Tigers, and Paolella's first game with his father, Angelo, a restaurant owner and brick mason. Nick Paolella, born and raised in Chicago, lived near Andy Pafko when he was a kid, and he thinks his father got the tickets from the Cubs outfielder.

"At 10 years old and not knowing the sport," he said. "I had no idea what that was."

He knows now. They all do, from Ann Lantolf, who picked up the Cubs after she moved to Chicago in 1961, to Frank Gronn, who started going to Wrigley Field with his grandfather when he was just a kid. From generations of Cubs fans gone to Cubs fans now, hoping and praying for the opportunity to experience that joy just one time.

> **You know, not everybody gets to experience it in their lifetime.**
> Cubs fan Ann Lantolf

It has been 108 years since the North Siders last won the World Series, beating the Tigers in five games in 1908.

Now one of the best Cubs teams in decades is looking to pour champagne on one of sports' most famous droughts, and its devoted fans are watching with a mixture of excitement and foreboding generated by years of heartache.

Those who have suffered the longest know this mixture well.

"There is some trepidation, I think, just being a Chicago Cubs fan especially," said Gronn, 70, a season-ticket holder since 1985. "One of the best teams ever, and it's just always in the back of your mind, I guess. But I'm kind of leaning more, maybe 70-30, that this is going to be the year."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB IN BRIEF

Jays vow tougher security after thrown beer can

The Toronto Blue Jays expressed "extreme disappointment" and vowed to tighten their security and alcohol policies after a spectator hurled a beer can at Baltimore outfielder Hyun Soo Kim during Tuesday's dramatic playoff game between the team and the Orioles.

In a lengthy statement issued late Wednesday afternoon, the baseball team apologized to the Orioles and Major League Baseball for what it called an "embarrassing incident."

The incident triggered a frenzy online and in the stands. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Marlins cut Bonds loose

The Miami Marlins fired hitting coach Barry Bonds on Wednesday.

Miami finished fourth in the majors in batting at .263 but fourth-lowest in runs at 655 and next-to-last with 128 homers. The Marlins improved in all three categories from 2015. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yankees committed to rebuild with prospects

When teams dangle veteran stars for prospects this off-season, Yankees general manager Brian Cashman will do his best to say no.

"We have an exciting, young nucleus that's coming. Some of it's arrived, some of it's still coming," Cashman said Wednesday.

New York missed the playoffs for the third time in four years with a record of 84-78. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Murphy still questionable for Nationals' NLDS

Injured Nationals second baseman Daniel Murphy won't say whether he'll be ready for Game 1 of the NL Division Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers, although he did think he took "a step in the right direction" on Wednesday.

Murphy hasn't started a game for the NL East champion Nationals since Sept. 17, missing time with a strained muscle in his buttocks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Brady back in Patriots fold following ban

With his team coming off its first loss of the season, New England coach Bill Belichick has been in no mood to dwell on the return of a certain quarterback this week.

"Right now our focus is on Cleveland, trying to get ready to go in Cleveland. We can't do anything about what it was or wasn't the last four weeks," Belichick said. "That's it, period. This week, Cleveland." Tight end Rob Gronkowski agreed with his coach's assessment, with one caveat. "It's just like any other week, except Tom's back at quarterback, baby," he said.

After a quiet first two days since the expiration of his "Deflategate" suspension, Brady and the Patriots returned to the practice field Wednesday for the first time to begin preparations for the Browns.

Though banned from the Patriots' facilities during his suspension, Brady was allowed to workout with personal trainer Alex Guerrero and kept busy throwing passes with former Patriots receiver Wes Welker.

Tom Brady
GETTY IMAGES

But it remains unclear just how game ready he is, and how much rust he needs to peel away prior to Sunday's trip to Cleveland. After missing the preseason opener to attend a memorial service, and then accidentally cutting his thumb prior to the second preseason game, Brady had limited reps with new additions like Martellus Bennett and Chris Hogan. The same was true with Gronkowski, who didn't dress for any preseason games and was limited by an ongoing hamstring injury.

"We've been practicing with Tom for a while now. So we've got to go out and do what we've done since the first day I've been here," Gronkowski said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Edmonton Oilers' Connor McDavid skates during training camp in Edmonton. THE CANADIAN PRESS/JASON FRANSON

McDavid the new captain

NHL

Oilers star now youngest ever to wear C in league history

Oilers coach Todd McLellan knew Connor McDavid was ready to become the youngest captain in NHL history eight months ago.

After a long layoff due to a broken collarbone, McDavid returned to Edmonton's lineup and took charge. McLellan saw a supremely confident player on the ice, a person who was comfortable around teammates and at ease with the coaching staff.

> **At that point it was real evident he was ready to lead this group**
> Oilers coach Todd McLellan

"At that point it was real evident he was ready to lead this group," McLellan told reporters in Edmonton on Wednesday. At 19 years and 266 days, McDavid just edges out Gabriel Landeskog and Sidney Crosby as the youngest captain the league has ever seen, a not unexpected move for the player picked first overall at the 2015 draft. Like Landeskog, McDavid takes over after only one season in the NHL and a 45-game season at that.

He was a truly dominant player in limited duty though, fourth in rookie scoring despite missing 37 games with the collarbone injury.

McLellan said the phenom is ready to handle the pressures of the captaincy, especially the media responsibilities typical of a leader in a Canadian market. Teammates described the Newmarket, Ont. native as someone who would lead less with his voice than with his play on the ice and in the manner he carried himself.

McLellan said reception in the dressing room was positive.

"I don't think many of them were surprised, which I think is a good sign for us," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Winning ring for former Cavaliers coach Blatt

Former Cavaliers coach David Blatt has accepted a championship ring from the team despite being fired last season. Blatt was dismissed midway through his second season by Cleveland.

His replacement Tyronn Lue guided helped the Cavs capture the first major sports championship by a Cleveland team since 1964.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

St-Pierre hints at return

St-Pierre said he wants to return to the octagon after a three-year hiatus. There have been reports he will fight in Toronto on Dec. 10 if he can he negotiate a deal with UFC's new owners. But he had few details to offer.

"I can't talk about it right now. Because I can be in trouble," he said. "We'll see what happens but I promise you, we may have some news soon." THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECIPE One-Skillet Tomato Basil Chicken

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

One-pot dishes make dinner clean up easy and tomatoes, sweet basil and cheesy pasta make dinner wonderfully satisfying.

Serves 4

Ingredients

- Kosher salt and pepper
- 3 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 lb boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into chunks
- 4 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 x 28-ounce can of San Marzano tomatoes
- 1 1/2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup water
- 2 cups spelt penne pasta
- 1 cup freshly shaved Parmesan cheese, more for garnish
- 1 cup fresh basil leaves

Directions

1. Generously season your chicken breast with kosher salt and pepper. Cut into 1- inch chunks. Add olive oil to a large skillet warmed over medium heat. Place chunks of chicken in the pan and brown on all sides.

2. Lower the heat and add garlic to pan. Sauté the chicken and the garlic together for 1 minute. Add the can of tomatoes, chicken broth, water and uncooked pasta to the pan. Bring this mixture to a boil, then decrease the heat to low. Cover the pan and allow it to cook for about 15 minutes.

3. Remove cover and allow the pasta to cook for another 5 minutes, or until liquid is reduced by half. Remove your skillet from the heat and gently stir in the Parmesan cheese. Serve individual portions with a sprinkling of fresh basil leaves and a bit more parmesan cheese

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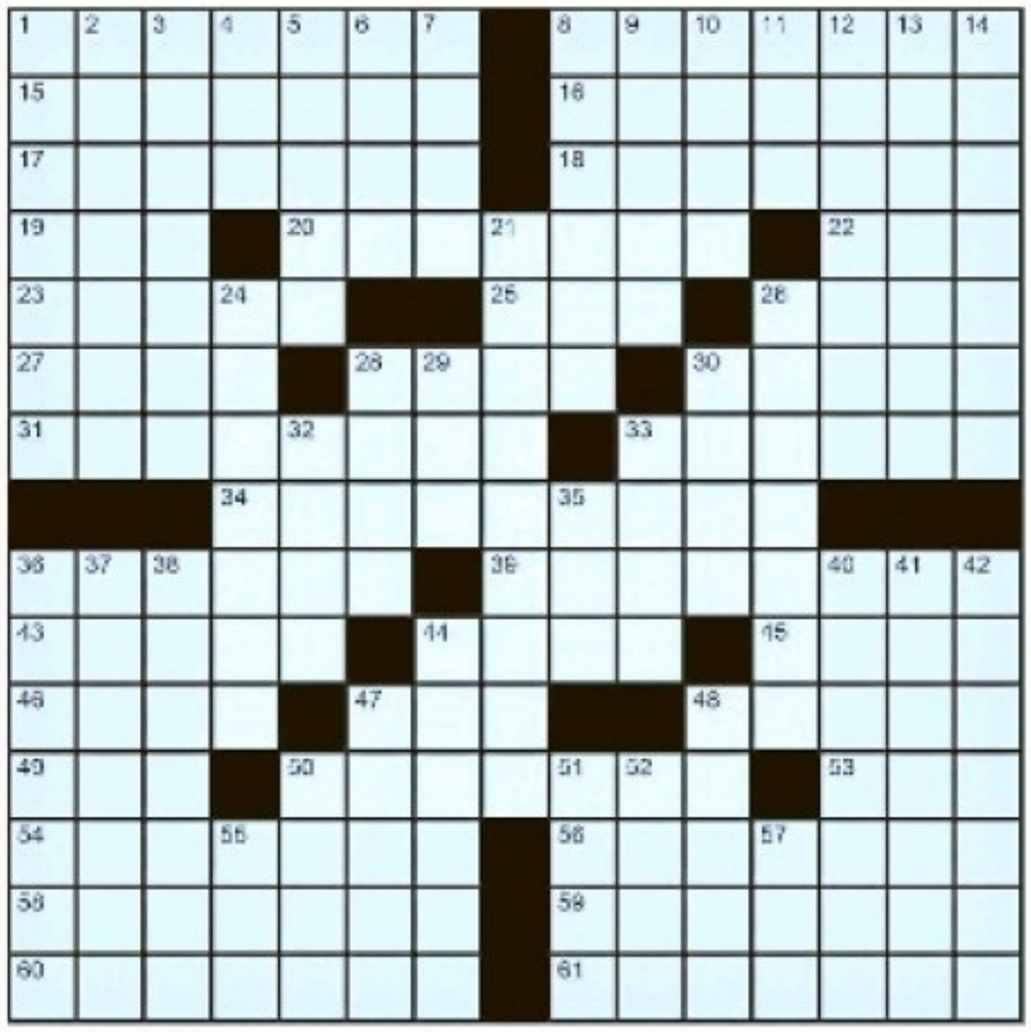
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS

1. Self-evident facts
8. __ Bay, Newfoundland
15. Ace
16. Political pundit Ms. Huffington
17. Dubai or Abu Dhabi
18. Put forth, as fact
19. Mr. Bachman
20. Quantity question?: 2 wds.
22. Pallid
23. Condo spaces
25. 'Count' suffix
26. Boost
27. __ the Clown of classic television
28. Chat
30. Undergarments brand
31. Portrayer of Jan on "The Brady Bunch": 2 wds.
33. Entrance areas
34. 'The Town That Says You're Welcome.' in Conception Bay North in Newfoundland
36. Butt against
39. Exorbitant
43. Group of three
44. Country star Mr. Paisley
45. Trick
46. Lester __, "NBC Nightly News" anchor
47. Gents
48. Canadian length measurement
49. Newly built house location selection
50. A Scandal in __ (Sherlock Holmes story)
53. Container cover
54. TV series installment
56. Records repository
58. Times on the job
59. Medical examiner
60. Most jumpy
61. Those comprehending, say

DOWN

1. England: London Underground, nicknamed: 2 wds.
2. House of __ (Anastasia's family)
3. Put to work
4. Medit. Sea land
5. Ex-rulers of Iran
6. Prefix to 'cross' (Off-road sport for bikers)
7. Crock-Pot serving
8. __ National Park, in northern Manitoba located by Hudson Bay
9. '-Z' Camaro models
10. Gomez's nickname for Morticia on "The Addams Family"
11. Oscar-winning composer Francis
12. Interlace
13. One running shoe
14. Sorrow
21. Eastern Townships township in Quebec which, by its name, makes one think of Australia
24. Last layer of lacquer: 2 wds.
26. Rural fun in the Fall
28. Go sour
29. Embassy diplomat, for short
30. Rime
32. __-back (Relaxed)
33. Catty conflict
35. Org. on "Snowden" (2016)
36. Football player or gymnast
37. Wilted
38. Leaving a love
40. Draft
41. Against the current
42. Those who are sowing
44. Command
47. Styles
48. Large in scale
50. Drill hole
51. Canadian filmmaker Mr. Sennett
52. Press
55. Fashion designer Anna
57. "__ Deep Is Your Love" by The Bee Gees

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Do something different today, because you are hungry for adventure and a chance to learn something new. If possible, travel somewhere or go someplace you've never been before.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
This is a good day to attend to financial matters, especially related to inheritances, shared property, taxes and debt. Get rid of troublesome loose ends.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You have to accommodate others today, because the Moon is opposite your sign. (This simply means being co-operative and accommodating. No biggie.)

Cancer June 22 - July 23
) It will please you to do something today that makes you feel you are better organized. Get rid of what you don't need. Recycle. Tidy papers and magazines.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This is a playful, flirtatious day. Do something that pleases you. Enjoy sports events, movies, the arts and fun times with children.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A conversation with a female relative is important today. This is a good day to relax and hide at home among familiar surroundings.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
In conversation with others today, you want to have a serious discussion. Nothing superficial. You want to know how someone really feels about certain issues.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You might be possessive about something that you own today, which is why you don't want to let anyone use it. Some of you will need some shopping therapy..

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will be more emotional about things today because the Moon is in your sign. Keep this in mind when dealing with those who are close to you. Chill out.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Today you will prefer to work alone or behind the scenes because it just feels better. You also need a bit of space and a moment to catch your breath.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is the day for an important discussion with a female friend. Share your hopes and dreams for the future with this person to get her outlook.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Look for ways to impress someone in authority today, because it will be to your advantage. This person might be a boss, parent or anyone who has influence over you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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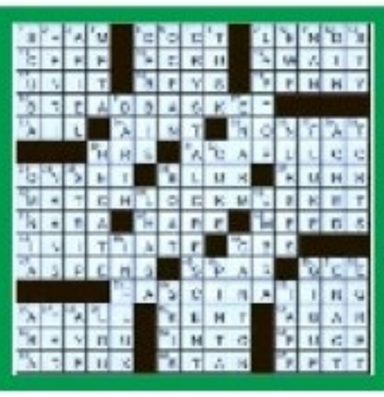

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8	9	6	5	3	4	7	1	2

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